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THE HOME GARDEN

TOMATOES ON TRELLIS IN HOME GARDEN

THE HOME GARDEN.

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The home garden is one of the most important means of cutting down expenses and helping to make the living of the family on the farm. It has been shown that 80 per cent of the table supplies can be produced at home by having a good garden, winter and summer. It can be made a source of much profit, health and comfort.

For the convenience of the home-keeper the garden should be as near the kitchen as practicable, and not off in a field several hundred yards. It should be well fenced to keep out poultry and other live-stock. There should be no large trees in or near the garden. They rob the soil of plant food and moisture, in addition to injury done by shading it. While most vegetables will grow on any common type of soil, yet, for best results, the garden spot should be of a sandy loam type with a good stiff subsoil 10 to 15 inches below. The land should be well drained, either naturally or artificially, and should, preferably, slope to the east or south, so that it will derive more benefit from sunshine.

The soil should be broken from 8 to 12 inches deep. Shallow soils will not hold sufficient moisture to sustain growing crops through a dry period. It should never be plowed or cultivated when either the soil or the subsoil is wet. This will puddle the soil, thereby injuring it for several years. The subsoil should not be thrown out on the top when doing spring breaking. The land should be well harrowed two or three times as soon as broken. This is to prepare a well pulverized seed-bed and retain moisture. The soil should be cultivated every seven to ten days during the spring, summer and autumn, unless too wet. Where horse cultivation is used, long rows are preferable to short ones.

The garden soil should be well supplied with humus (organic matter). Nothing is better than well rotted stable manure, free from weed seed, applied broadcast at the rate of ten to twenty tons per acre. Apply a hundred pounds of acid phosphate for every ton (two-horse

load) of manure. In addition to stable manure, use from 500 to 1,000 pounds per acre of a good commercial fertilizer containing, if procurable, about from 6 to 8 per cent phosphate, 4 to 5 per cent nitrogen and 6 to 8 per cent potash. (Ashes from hard-woods, such as oak, hickory, etc., may take the place of potash.) Three hundred pounds acid phosphate, two hundred of cottonseed meal, and one hundred of nitrate of soda, mixed, make a good application for a half-acre garden, provided ashes are used separately to furnish potash. Fertilizers should usually be applied in the drill, but should be well mixed with the soil.

For saving the surplus vegetables of summer for winter us, a home canner is indispensable. There are now on the market several effective ones, varying in price from six to twelve dollars. Cans are not expensive.

The following table was prepared for the central part of the State. For places in other parts of the State the time of planting should vary from one to three weeks, according to location, elevation, etc.:

TIME TO PLANT.

JANUARY—Garden peas, kale, mustard, Irish potatoes, radish.

FEBRUARY—Asparagus roots, beet, carrot, herbs, kale, horse radish, Irish potatoes, lettuce, onion, mustard, pepper (T), early peas, rape, radish, spinach, spring turnip, strawberry plant.

MARCH—Artichoke, artichoke roots, asparagus roots, asparagus seed, beet, brussels sprouts, corn, cabbage (T), carrot, kale, egg plant (T), herbs, horse radish, kale, lettuce (T), mustard, onion (T), onion sets, parsley, parsnip, English peas, Irish potatoes, pepper (T), rape, radish, spinach, spring turnip, tomato (T), strawberry plants.

APRIL—Artichoke, artichoke roots, snap beans, Lima beans, beet, cabbage, broccoli (T), cabbage (T), carrot, celery (T), cauliflower (T), corn, cucumber, eggplant (T), endive, horse radish, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, melons, kale, mint roots, onion, okra, onion sets, parsley, parsnip, peas, pepper, Irish potatoes, radish, rape, salsify, tomato (T), squash, sweet potatoes, strawberry plant.

MAY—Snap beans, Lima beans, beet, cabbage (T), carrot, corn, celery (T), cucumber, kohlrabi, kale, eggplant (T), endive, lettuce (T), melons, mint roots, okra, pepper (T), parsley, parsnip, peas, pepper, pumpkin, radish, rape, salsify, squash, tomato, sweet potatoes.

JUNE—Snap beans, Lima beans, beet, cabbage (T), collard (T),

carrot, celery (T), cucumber, corn, lettuce, melons, okra, pumpkin, radish, squash, tomato.

JULY—Snap beans, beet, cabbage (T), carrot, collard (T), corn, cucumber, Scotch kale, lettuce, okra, pumpkin, radish, salsify, turnip.

AUGUST—Snap beans, beet, Swiss chard, carrot, collard (T), dandelion, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, Irish potatoes, rape, radish, spinach, turnip, strawberry plants.

SEPTEMBER—Snap beans, beet, cabbage (T), Brussels sprouts (T), carrot, cauliflower, cress, kale, lettuce (T), mustard, onion (T), onion sets, parsley, rape, rutabaga, radish, spinach, turnip, strawberry plants.

OCTOBER—Cabbage (T), cauliflower (T), kale, lettuce (T), onion, onion sets, rape, radish, spinach, turnip, strawberry plants, turnip for salad.

NOVEMBER—Broccoli (T), radish, cauliflower (T), mustard, rape, spinach, turnip for salad.

DECEMBER—Radish, spinach, rape.

HOTBED SOWINGS.

JANUARY—Beet, forcing carrot, eggplant, radish, tomato.

FEBRUARY—Cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, radish, tomato.

MARCH—Cucumber, muskmelon.

NOVEMBER—Cabbage, cauliflower, radish.

DECEMBER—Beet, cabbage, forcing carrot, cauliflower, radish.

Those marked with a (T) are to be sown broadcast in beds and transplanted later.

(For detailed information apply to Agricultural Editor, Raleigh, N. C., for Bulletin No. 9, Circular No. 3, or to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for Farmers' Bulletins Nos. 255 and 647, on Gardening.)